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AUTHOR Greenleaf, Connie; Gee, Mary Kay
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ABSTRACT

This guide is a proposed unit of instruction for a class composed of adults needing to improve their reading skills. The components include five key concepts with related content goals and adult basic education (ABE) student objectives. The key concepts are as follows: (1) there are many types of homes in the world; (2) people build different kinds of homes for different reasons; (3) there are many varied materials used to build homes; (4) there are many steps in building a home or structure; and (5) homes and buildings are designed to perform certain functions. The major portion of the guide is an annotated bibliography listing four student books, eight teacher resources, two nonprint resources, and nine recommended supplementary materials. Entries include the following information: author, title, publisher, date, and a short description; the listings for teacher resources also provide suggestions for use. The high-interest, low-reading-level publications are accessible to adults reading from the second to seventh grade reading levels. Most of the books are nonfiction, authentic texts that give information of high interest in a user-friendly setting, with many photographs supporting the simplified text. (KC)

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HOMES:
An Annotated Bibliography, Key Concepts, and Student Objectives

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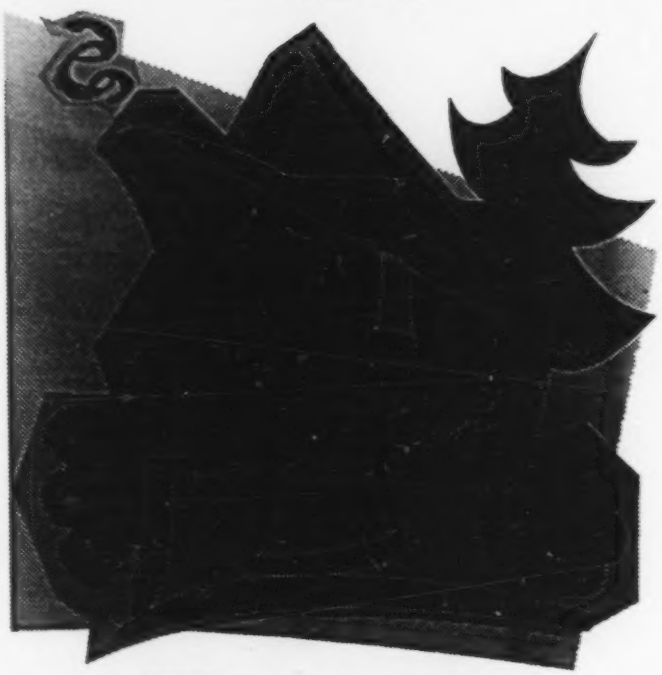

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HOMES Unit

Key Concepts
Student Objectives
&
Annotated Bibliography

Written by: Connie Greenleaf, MATESL
In collaboration with: Mary Kay Gee, Director
National Workplace Literacy Program

HOMES Unit Introduction

HOMES is a proposed unit of instruction for a class composed of adults needing to improve their reading skills. The components include:

- An annotated bibliography of the student and teacher texts included in this kit
- Key Concepts
- Content Goals
- Student Objectives

The topic of homes was chosen as the vehicle to practice literacy skills for several reasons. Shelter is a basic need, and everyone either has a home or has aspirations for some type of home. Because it is a basic need, people spend a great deal of time contemplating and talking about the concept of home. Whenever a topic of such universal appeal is available, it is fertile ground for reading, writing, and discussing, the core activities of a reading classroom. The high interest level generated by homes is fortunately accompanied in this unit by low level readers accessible to adults reading from the second to seventh grade reading levels. Most of the books are nonfiction, authentic texts which give information of high interest in a user friendly setting. There are many photographs which support the simplified text.

There are five key concepts delineated for the **Homes** unit, with Content Goals and ABE Objectives listed for each key concept. A teacher need only decide which of the many avenues to explore to engage students in rich discussions and motivating reading sessions. From the key concepts of **Homes** a teacher could move into readings on historical buildings in the students' community, city planning and local issues concerning zoning, etc., or a study of architectural styles. The possibilities for extensions are numerous.

HOMES Unit Outline

Key Concepts and Student Objectives

1. There are many types of homes in the world

- Content Goal: The student will be able to list and discuss several types of homes in the world

- ABE Objectives: Skim and scan written material for information
  Paraphrase written material
  Distinguish between main idea and supporting details
  Summarize information
  Develop lists of items

2. People build different kinds of homes for different reasons

- Content Goal: The student will identify and give explanations for the following reasons why different kinds of homes are built:
  - weather
  - resources
  - purpose of housing

- ABE Objectives: Write a clear, grammatical paragraph that focuses on a main idea
  Skim and scan written material for information
  Repeat or paraphrase key pieces of information
  Determine main idea in a text or passage

3. There are many varied materials used to build homes

- Content Goal: The student will write a description of the types of materials used to build homes and reasons why those materials are used

- ABE Objective: Write a clear, grammatical paragraph that focuses on a main idea
  Summarize information
  Distinguish between main idea and supporting details
  Preview for prediction
  Select relevant details for descriptive writing

4. There are many steps in building a home or structure

- Content Goal: The student will list and illustrate the major steps in building a home or structure

- ABE Objectives: List steps to complete a task
  Skim and scan written material for information
  Create a sequenced narrative in present or past tense

5. Homes and buildings are designed to perform certain functions

- Content Goal: The student will draw a floor plan for a home and describe the various functions of the home to a class

- ABE Objectives: Ask and respond to basic open-ended questions
  Summarize information
  Define the process of problem solving
  Read and interpret graphic information

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Homes Bibliography

Core Student Books

[Each of the books in this section could be used as a student text, with a copy for each student, as a core text from which to discuss houses and home. They vary in the reading level of the text , the subject matter, and the amount of support given through photographs, etc. but a classroom could easily have a variety of these texts to provide multiple perspectives and allow for differentiation of levels among students.]

Bare, Colleen Stanley, **THIS IS A HOUSE**. Penguin Books, Inc. 1992. Using simple text and clear color photographs the author takes the reader through the building of a house step by step from the bulldozing through moving-in day.

Curriculum Associates. **THE HOUSE I LIVE IN.** Curriculum Associates, 1995. This book tells about houses by continents, houses in the country, suburbs, city, and houses that can be moved. There are beautiful photographs on each page that support the text on the page. The text would be best used by the lowest level reader as a core text.

Nicholson, John. **HOMEMADE HOUSES: TRADITIONAL HOMES FROM MANY LANDS**. Allen & Unwin, 1993. This book examines traditional homes from around the world, the materials they are made of, and the environmental conditions that impact the building of these homes. The book is divided into five sections: mobile homes, houses of reed, grass, and bamboo, houses of earth and clay, houses of wood, and houses of stone. For each section there are two or three examples, with an overall view of the houses, plans, cross-sections, and detailed sketches. There is also a written description of why and how it was built and information about the family and community of the house.

White, Sylvia. **WELCOME HOME!**. Children's Press, 1995. With stunning photographs of homes from around the world this book examines dwellings through such topics as materials, proximity of houses, wealth and social status, etc. The photographs alone provide a rich environment for discussion. This text would be best used by an intermediate level reader as a core text.

Teacher Resources

Education Development Center, Inc. **DESIGNING SPACES; VISUALIZING, PLANNING, AND BUILDING.** Heinemann, 1993.
This teacher resource concerns the visualizing, planning, and building of houses. It is part of a series titled Seeing and Thinking Mathematically in the Middle Grades, and its philosophy is one of active involvement and actively constructing their own understandings. In this unit students use geometry to analyze building from around the world, design and build their own house models, create plans for their designs, and build from each other's plans.

POSSIBLE USES: Teachers could use many of the wonderful lessons in this book, which are reproducible masters of complete lessons. There are activities to generate discussion, mathematics activities, social issues activities, and others to choose from. It is an excellent resource for teachers to consider as an ancillary resource for materials for a unit on homes and building.

Grave, Ginny. **BOX CITY: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY EXPERIENCE IN COMMUNITY PLANNING.** Center for Understanding The Built Environment, 1993. This resource presents a curriculum of the built environment which teaches about our cities and how they work.

POSSIBLE USES: It can be used to plan and execute a new city plan, or discuss such concepts as preservation issues, city planning, and many others. It is a very practical, teacher-oriented resource which lists materials needed for each activity, expected outcomes, and full explanations of the activities.

Rickard, Graham. **BUILDING HOMES.** Lerner Publications, 1989. This book presents information about the materials used for building, such as metal, concrete, brick, and stone. It is written in a very easy-to-read format with photograph illustrations on each page.

POSSIBLE USES: Each student or pair of students could read about one material (2 pages in the book) and give an oral presentation about it to the class, with class members making notes fill in on a template as they listened.

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Salvadori, Mario. **THE ART OF CONSTRUCTION**. Chicago Review Press, 1990. This book presents many of the concepts of physics pertaining to structures in a lucid, cogent format. The author thoroughly explains concepts such as tension, steel frames, and compression and provides hands-on experiences to guide understanding. There are numerous illustrations to facilitate the experiences and build concepts.

POSSIBLE USES: Although made for upper elementary students, it is an excellent teacher resource for both background knowledge and ideas for experiences to build concepts about structures. There are many hands-on experiences in the book which a teacher could replicate in the classroom.

Ventura, Piero. **HOUSES**. Houghton Mifflin, 1992.
This illustrator and author is noted for artwork that is amusing, accessible, and informative. This book traces human progress from the first straw huts to medieval castle to modern day apartment buildings. Housing styles throughout history are explored with finely detailed illustrations and informative text.

POSSIBLE USES: This would be best used as a resource for students interested in the history of the development of houses. A teacher could highlight a certain era to share with the class.

Wilcox, Charlotte. **A SKYSCRAPER STORY**. Carolrhoda Books, Inc., 1990. This book describes the process of building of Norwest Center, a fifty-seven story skyscraper in Minneapolis. There are many photographs to support the text and many architectural terms are explained throughout the book.

POSSIBLE USES: This book would serve as an excellent introduction to a discussion of what buildings are part of the students' community, with a follow-up field trip to examine, research, and document the famous buildings of their area.

Wilson, Forrest. **WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE A BUILDING**. Preservation Press, 1988. This highly amusing and informational book presents many of the principles of physics pertaining to structures in a cartoon-like format. There are line drawings on each page which illustrate one concept, which is named in the one or two sentence text which accompanies each picture.

POSSIBLE USES: This could be used as a teacher read-aloud to facilitate discussion of the concepts. The most promising, interesting use of this text would involve asking the students to attempt to replicate the drawings and feel for themselves what it feels like to be a dome, an arch, etc.

Wood, Tim. **HOUSES AND HOMES.** Viking Press, 1995. This book explores how homes have evolved from the beginning of the time to the future. Stunning see-through cutaways combined with descriptive text and vivid illustrations give the book high visual appeal.

POSSIBLE USES: This could be used for the illustrations alone for readers who might have difficulty with the text. There are many cross-sections of homes which could be used to illustrate points in oral presentations by both teacher and student.

Non Print

Children's Television Workshop, **3-2-1 CONTACT: ARCHITECTURE, HOME.** 1993. This video cassette shows and explains house framing, making a home in a day with the Masai, joinery, and spanning long distances, among other topics. The excellent presentation is easy to understand and visually appealing for all learners.

Sim City 2000, Maxis, Inc. 1994. This CD-ROM is a futuristic city planner which requires cooperative planning and execution of decisions. It has high appeal and multiple possibilities for classroom discussion and participation.

LIST OF RECOMMENDED SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

Bennett, David. **SKYSCRAPERS: FORM AND FUNCTION**. Simon and Schuster, 1995. This book contains superb photography, lavish artwork, and informative text which bring the skyscraper structures to life and connects the buildings with the people who construct them and with those who work in them. It is divided into three sections: A Day in the Life of a Skyscraper, The History of a Skyscraper, and The Building of the Hong Kong Bank. The Day in the Life section takes you through a 24-hour diary of the happenings in the Chicago Sears Tower. Excellent graphic illustrations of skyscraper anatomy and many foldout pages.

Jessop, Joanne. **THE X-RAY PICTURE BOOK OF BIG BUILDINGS OF THE MODERN WORLD**. Franklin Watts, 1994. Discover the construction techniques, the architects and craftsmen, the building materials, and the real-life stories behind unique structures such as the Eiffel Tower, the Empire State Building, the Sydney Opera House, the Statue of Liberty, and the Kansai Airport. See x-ray views and detailed descriptions of the construction and engineering process as well as finished product.

Knevitt, Charles. **SHELTER: HUMAN HABITATS FROM AROUND THE WORLD**. Pomegranate Art Books, 1996. A record through photographs and words of houses and housing from around the world and throughout time. The simple to complex, the primitive to sophisticated is visually shown and vividly described. Seventy-five compelling photographs with a description of the history, building materials, design, climate, and construction methods is provided in this excellent resource text.

Lind, Carla. **FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S PRAIRIE HOUSES**. Archetype Press,Inc., 1994. A detail of the origins of the Prairie Style type of house with supporting photographs and description showing the typical features and furnishings. This 5" square book includes a tour of the ten most popular examples, with a Midwest emphasis.

Margolies, John. **HOME AWAY FROM HOME: MOTELS IN AMERICA.** Bullfinch Press, 1995. A grand overview and tour of motel history and lore with more than 250 lively color photographs. A view of the style of lodging and the features used to lure travelers: decor, swimming pools, restaurants, and signs. An exploration of the image of the motel in America and how it has evolved. Many postcards and vintage brochures accompany the photographs and descriptions.

Scholastic Voyages of Discovery. **ARCHITECTURE AND CONSTRUCTION.** Scholastic, Inc., 1994. The graphics, special effects, and numerous transparent pages involve the reader in an active exploration of houses and buildings and their construction. From ancient Egypt to modern day, simple shelters of mud and ice, family dwellings, the mosaic of materials, the freedom of concrete, and building with clay are all explored in detail with actual photographs and vivid illustrations. This book is unique in that it contains a section titled "Extending Your Reading" which lists additional books, addresses, people and words, and a time line referring to the subject matter.

Stevenson, Neil. **ARCHITECTURE.** D.K. Publishing, Inc., 1997. A guide to understanding significant building styles with detailed annotations and spectacular illustrations. The book covers an architectural span of 3,500 years and highlights the important features that distinguish 50 masterpieces from around the world. Pictures are complemented by the information that explains the technical and theoretical knowledge of building construction. The Ark, the Alhambra, the Robie House, and the Tokyo Olympic Stadium are some of the featured structures.

Threadgill, Colin. **ANIMAL HOMES.** Crown Publishers, Inc., 1996. This book contains eight full-color foldout panoramas that reveal the fascinating homes of animals. The cross section views are accompanied by brief descriptions.

Wilkinson, Phillip. **BUILDING.** Alfred A. Knopf, 1995. A description of what is a building and all the elements used in building homes and structures. A two page section each on earth and its uses, bricks, stone, thatching, doors windows, balconies, floors, and special touches. It shows the process and tools for each type of material along with a cross section view of how the material is utilized in the structure. Beautiful photographs and illustrations.